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29 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Members of the Psychological Strategy Board.

The Honorable David K. Bruce,
Under Secretary of State.
The Honorable Williams C. Foster,
Deputy Secretary of Defense.
General Walter Bedell Smith,
Director of Central Intelligence,
Chairman.

FROM: The 10/5 Panel.

VIA: The Director, Psychological Strategy Board.

SUBJECT: Interim Approval of the "Packet" (submitted to the Psychological Strategy Board by the Director of Central Intelligence under date of March 12, 1952.)

At the PSB Luncheon-Meeting of May 22, 1952, a proposed interim approval of the CIA "Packet" was submitted for Board consideration. A copy of this proposal is attached as Appendix "A". Since the Chairman of the Board was absent no official action was possible. It was, therefore, decided to postpone action until the May 29th meeting of the Board. Mr. Bruce, however, raised two questions:

1. Whether the proposed interim approval might to some degree commit an approving party or might constitute an authorization to CIA to begin to carry out its over-all program in a way which might later be difficult to stop. If so, the State Department was not prepared to agree without more detailed study.
2. If no commitment or authorization were made or given, he questioned the reason for the action.

In view of these questions, two conferences were held by [] and myself, as the PSB panel members, with representatives of the State Department--the first with Messrs. Nitze, Joyce, Stelli, and Watts; and the second with Messrs. Joyce and Stelli.

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[] and I pointed out that no commitment nor any authorization greater than already granted by the approval of the 10/2 representatives was intended but that an interim approval was justified since it might provide psychological encouragement to the CIA staff. Such encouragement seemed worth giving in view of the fact that the main issues involved in the approval of the "Packet" were first formulated at the time of the "Magnitude" paper some fifteen months ago and have not been definitively answered as yet. ✓

The State Department representatives, mentioned above, were willing to accept this view but objected to the interim approval as originally drafted.

Two drafts have since been prepared, one by representatives of the State Department (attached as Appendix "B") and one by A&B staff at the request of Colonel Johnston, the CIA panel member (attached as Appendix "C"). These two are intended to be similar in substance. The latter, however, specifically recommends that CIA proceed with the general programming for a covert apparatus. According to Colonel Johnston, this will give his staff a planning incentive not given by the other draft which is too strictly limited to programs and projects "previously approved". Neither draft, however, grants CIA any greater authority than the other. Appropriately enough, it is a psychological difference.

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[]
Chairman, 10/5 Panel

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